



**Zeke's Island Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 6, 2012 3 pm**

Attendance

<u>LAC Members</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	<u>Present</u>
Mr. John Carty	Commercial User	No
Mr. Nathan Henry	Division of Archives and History	Yes
Dr. Anthony Snider	UNCW EVS	No
Ms. Renee Weeks	NC Aquarium	Yes
Mr. Jeff Owen	Division of Parks and Recreation	Yes
<u>Others</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	
Hope Sutton	DCM/NCCR Stewardship Coordinator & Southern Sites Manager	
Rebecca Ellin	DCM/NCCR Reserve Manager	

Reserve Program Update

Staffing News

- Lori Davis was hired as the Education Coordinator effective February 16, 2012. Lori served as the Reserve's Education Specialist for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. In her new role, she manages all K-12 student and teacher and general public programming. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Methodist College.
- Paula Gillikin was hired as the Central Sites Manager effective February 20, 2012. Paula served as the Reserve's Rachel Carson Site Manager in a temporary capacity since 2007. She will continue to steward the Rachel Carson site in her new role and is also responsible for our Permuda Island Reserve. Paula has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and a Master of Science from Tufts University in Animals and Public Policy.
- Whitney Jenkins was hired as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator effective August 31, 2012. Whitney served as the Reserve's Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. She will

continue her coastal training duties and coordinate communications for the program. Whitney has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Florida and a Masters degree from Duke University in Coastal Environmental Management

- Interviews were conducted for the permanent Northern Sites Manager position in October 2012.

Budget Update

The Reserve receives funding from both the State of N.C. and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for operation of the program and a budget update was provided for the current and upcoming fiscal years. The Reserve's total budget for FY12-13 is \$911,287 (\$265,000 from State appropriations and \$646,287 from NOAA, 91% of the NOAA funds support operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve); this excludes any external grant funds. The Division is participating in a number of budget exercises to prepare for the upcoming biennium (FYs 13-14 and 14-15) and gubernatorial transition. Federal appropriations for next fiscal year for operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve portion of the program are uncertain at this time; possible scenarios include level-funding and reductions of various amounts.

Local Advisory Committees

The Reserve program updated the membership of existing and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

Program Highlights

See attached for 2012 Reserve Program Highlights.

Welcome of new members - Reserve program and LAC refresher

New members were welcomed, including representatives from newly appointed partner agencies and several new community members and community group representatives. A presentation was given to familiarize new members with the Reserve and the operations of the Local Advisory Committee. The presentation served as a refresher for current members. See attached for LAC Refresher.

Site Update & Old Business

- Members were informed about site specific projects. No unusual site issues occurred. Monitoring and research programs have continued as usual.

- Installation of a welcome sign and an informational panel was completed at the overlook platform at the end of the Fort Fisher hiking trail. The Coastal Reserve appreciates the efforts of the Fort Fisher Recreation Area staff to complete this installation. An additional set of signs will be installed at the Federal Point boat ramp area.
- A wildfire, believed to be escaped from an illegal campfire occurred on October 25. Less than 1 acre was burned. Consideration of additional measures to discourage illegal camping and campfires is underway.
- Issues related to use of the rocks for access to Zeke's Island and for fishing were discussed. This activity is a regular occurrence and is a safety concern. Physical alteration to disconnect the rocks at the mainland end of the structure was briefly discussed as a potential solution.

Roundtable Discussion

- Ms. Renee Weeks reported that the Aquarium conducted 14 canoe trips with a total of 153 participants between June and September 2012. Activities included birding, fishing, crabbing and pulling seine nets along the shore.
- Mr. Henry suggested that any effort related to the rocks could require involvement of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Fort Fisher Historic Area and the Division of Archives and History.

Meeting Follow Up

- Proposed meeting dates for 2013 are April 9, 10 am, and November 12, 10 am.